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For members only



Extreme Philately. Part 1

The Most Unusual Stamps of the World

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Postage stamps are no longer just the dull coloured, square or rectangular pieces of perforated paper we stick onto our mail envelopes or parcels. Innovations, advanced printing technologies and creativity have been adopted by numerous postal authorities worldwide to create exciting stamps which, a century ago, were unthinkable.

The atypical postage stamps that were deemed stupefying and wayward were the triangular Cape of Good Hope issues of 1853–64, followed by the more non-conformists series of asymmetrical stamps from Tonga, issued from 1963 and golden foil stamps from Bhutan from 1966. Tonga and Bhutan then became pioneers in issuing unusual stamps. Currently, countries like Austria, Spain, Liechtenstein, Thailand, Hong Kong, Brazil and Australia are followed and anticipated by many for their innovative and creative line up of stamps. Much to the delight of collectors the world over, modern-day stamps are not any more just philatelic items we enjoy to look at, but touch, smell, hear and taste as well!

Here is the first instalment of a selection of our favourites in each of the categories in our collection of the most captivating world stamps that we would think twice to post with.